MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

5 OF 6

GREVIOUX • BREITWEISER • REBER

YOUNG AVENGERS PRESENTS

STATURE

with respect & apologies to: Allred, Coipel, Ferry, Kollins, Layton & Co.

MMIII • 1 • 05

United by friendship and bravery, Patriot, Hawkeye, Wiccan, Hulkling, Stature, Speed and the Vision are the Young Avengers, following in the footsteps of Earth's mightiest heroes! While superhuman registration temporarily caused the team to cease operations, they are ready to return to the streets to take on the threats no single super hero can withstand!

YOUNG AVENGERS PRESENTS STATURE

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STATURE

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PATRIOT

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WICCAN

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HAWKEYE

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"HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN LIKE THIS?"

"I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE'S GETTING *WORSE.*"

"SHE CALLED ME THIS MORNING, CRYING, BUT SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHY. AND WHEN I CAME OVER TO SEE ABOUT HER...

"*THIS* IS HOW I FOUND HER."

"I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HER. SHE WON'T SPEAK...OR *CAN'T.*"

"I KNOW HER SIZE CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON HER MOOD, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE *THIS.*"

"WELL WE BETTER DO SOMETHING *QUICK--*"

AVENGERS MANSION.

--BEFORE CASSIE COMPLETELY *DISAPPEARS.*

I HAD TO BUY THIS *MICROSCOPE* JUST SO I COULD CONTINUE TO *SEE* HER.

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO *HANK PYM*. HE CAN HELP HER.

AND GET *ARRESTED?* HE'LL PROBABLY THINK WE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH INJURING ONE OF HIS "*INITIATIVE RECRUITS*", ELI.

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL WORK, BUT MAYBE I COULD MAGICALLY *SHRINK* ONE OF US DOWN TO HER SIZE TO SPEAK WITH HER MORE DIRECTLY.

YOU CAN DO THAT, BILLY?

IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

YOU'RE HER BEST FRIEND, KATE. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HER?

I DON'T KNOW, ELI. SO FAR, CASSIE HASN'T RESPONDED TO ME AT ALL, SO I THINK WE SHOULD SEND SOMEONE ELSE.

NAMELY... *YOU.*

ME? NO WAY!

I DON'T EVEN LIKE *MINIATURE GOLF.*

LOOK, ELI, WHATEVER CASSIE'S GOING THROUGH, YOU TWO SHARE COMMON GROUND. YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO CARRY A TORCH THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN TO YOU.

YEAH, THROW *THAT* IN.

IT'S NOT GONNA HURT, DUDE. WHAT? YOU DON'T *TRUST* ME?

IT'S NOT THAT, BILLY. OF COURSE I TRUST YOU. IT'S JUST--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER!

OKAY, GUYS, WE'RE WASTING TIME. AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A *FRIEND* HERE.

ELI-- ARE YOU GOING, OR WHAT?

ALRIGHT-- FINE.

HERE'S A COMMUNICATOR SO WE CAN *HEAR* WHAT'S GOING ON.

IWANTELI TOSHRINKIWANT ELITOSHRINK...

OH...DUDE, WAIT...I FEEL SICK...

IT'S *WORKING*--!

THIS IS GONNA COST YOU A *LOT* OF PIZZA, KATE.

HEY--THE *SAUSAGE AND PEPPERONI* IS ON THE WAY.

HEY, CASS...

HOW'S IT--?

HEY-- I'M STILL SHRINKING!

BILLY--! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

I'M TRYING--!

STOP SHRINKINGSTOP SHRINKING

I'M SMALLER THAN CASSIE NOW!

LOOK, ELI--I'M SORRY, MAN. WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

RIGHT.

CASSIE LANG-- THIS IS YOUR *CONSCIENCE* SPEAKING!

TELL ME HE DID *NOT* JUST SAY THAT.

JUST *TALK* TO HER, MAN.

CASSIE-- Y'KNOW, KATE GOT HER *NETFLIX* IN. WE GOT A *24 SEASON SIX* MARATHON GOING ON HERE. WE ALL THOUGHT WE'D MAKE A DAY OF IT.

WHAT D'YA SAY?

ELI, I--

--I THINK I *KILLED* SOMEONE.

CASSIE'S HOME, THAT MORNING.

MARCH 21. FIRST DAY OF SPRING...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MY MOM AND DAD'S *ANNIVERSARY.*

IF ONLY THEY HAD *STAYED TOGETHER.*

THINGS WOULD BE SO MUCH DIFFERENT.

I WOULDN'T BE SO ALONE.

AS IT STANDS NOW...

...ALL I HAVE ARE *MEMORIES.*

NOT TOO FAST, BABY...

SLOW MAKES IT *LAST LONGER* AND TASTE *BETTER.*

SCOTT LANG WASN'T A PERFECT PERSON. WHO IS?

ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE WAS MY FATHER, AND I *LOVED* HIM.

MOM WAS USUALLY MORE TALKATIVE, BUT TODAY WAS DIFFERENT. I COULD TELL SHE WAS THINKING ABOUT DAD TOO.

BUT FOR HER MEMORY LANE WASN'T A HAPPY PLACE FULL OF FOND MEMORIES.

ALL SHE COULD SEE WAS THE PAIN OF A SHATTERED PAST...

...AND THE BAD TIMES THAT MY FATHER'S CRIMES WOULD BRING.

SCOTT-- WHAT IS THAT??

FRUITS OF LABOR, HONEY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SORRY.

'MORNING, BLAKE.

'MORNING, PEGGY. 'MORNING, CASSIE. Y'KNOW, MY UNCLE HAS A PLACE UP IN CONNECTICUT BY THE LAKE. WE SHOULD GO.

MY MOM HAS MOVED ON, REMARRIED.

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID-- MY BROTHER COULD SWING A *FLY ROD* LIKE HE WAS BORN WITH IT. CAUGHT EVERYTHING FROM *PORGIES* TO *TROUT*.

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST TOOK ME THERE, HONEY. IT'S BEAUTIFUL THIS TIME OF YEAR. THEY EVEN HAVE AN AMUSEMENT PARK, I HEAR.

SO WE'RE THE *HUXTABLES* NOW, RIGHT?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU-- EVERY TIME I TRY TO REACH OUT TO YOU, YOU SMACK ME AWAY.

CASSIE, SWEETHEART, THIS DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE SO DIFFICULT.

YET, HERE WE ARE...

NOW, LOOK, YOUNG LADY--I'VE HAD ABOUT *ENOUGH* OF YOUR ATTITUDE.

OW!

BLAKE--?

I'M NOT YOUR SKELL FATHER. YOU CAN'T--

CAN'T WHAT, "BIG MAN"?

CASSIE--!

OH, MAN...

CASSIE, YOU *DIDN'T*-- I MEAN, HE'S YOUR STEPDAD...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

JUST LISTEN...

I DIDN'T--I WANTED TO...JUST FOR A MOMENT... BUT...

LOOK, I *FEEL YOU*. IT WAS THE SAME WAY WITH ME AND GRANDAD. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING MEASURED NEXT TO THEM. ALWAYS IN THEIR SHADOW, FOR GOOD OR ILL.

BUT YOUR FATHER, MY GRANDAD...THEY DID THEIR THING.

NOW IT'S OUR TURN.

OUR TURN TO WHAT?

FAIL??

GUYS--

WE'VE GOT A *PROBLEM*. SHE'S STARTING TO *SHRINK* AGAIN.

I TRIED TO CALM DOWN, THINK GOOD THOUGHTS.

NO PARKING
BUS STOP

GOOD THOUGHTS OF HAPPIER TIMES.

TIMES AFTER MY FATHER BECAME THE *AVENGER* KNOWN AS *ANT-MAN.*

I BROUGHT DR. SONDHEIM. YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT. AND I'M GOING TO CHANGE, HONEY. HONEST. ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO BE PROUD OF ME.

WHEN WE WERE DOING THE THINGS THAT FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS DO.

NOW HANG ON, BABY! AND PAY ATTENTION.

WHO KNOWS... MAYBE THEY'LL BE CALLING YOU ANT-GIRL ONE DAY!

IT WORKED FOR AWHILE, UNTIL--

WRASH

I WAS ACTUALLY *GLAD* FOR THE DISTRACTION.

THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE MY MIND OFF OF THINGS.

AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW--

--THE GROWING MAN!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS UP TO--WHAT HE WAS AFTER, OR WHO MIGHT BE DIRECTING HIM...

BUT WE'D FACED THIS GUY BEFORE.

HOW MUCH TROUBLE COULD HE BE?

SO HE'D SPLIT INTO SEVERAL SMALLER MODELS AND I'D GRAB THEM ALL LIKE A BUNCH OF *ACTION FIGURES*, RIGHT?

WRONG.

THIS TIME, WHEN I HIT HIM, HE *GREW.*

O-KAY... BAD IDEA.

I *KNEW* I PROBABLY COULDN'T HIT HIM AGAIN, SO I HAD TO BE *CAREFUL.*

UULPP--!

BUT THERE *HAD* TO BE A *WEAKNESS.*

UHHGGGHH--!

THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT--

--A POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

FARE $2.00
for first mile
$1.00 / mile

ZZZZ-AAK!

LOOK OUT--!

O-OH--!

THUNK

NOOOO--!

B-BLAKE...?

MOM MET ME AT THE HOSPITAL...

MOM--I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

I HADN'T SEEN HER LIKE THAT SINCE THE DAYS WHEN DAD LIVED WITH US.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

REBER

BUT THAT LOOK IN HER EYES...THIS WAS *MY* FAULT.

THIS TIME, I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK AWAY HER HAPPINESS. WHO ***SHATTERED*** HER LIFE.

HEY, PEGGY-- HOW IS BLAKE?

WE CAME AS SOON AS WE HEARD.

PUNCTURED LUNG AND SPLEEN. CRUSHED VERTEBRAE. THEY-- THEY DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL EVEN WALK.

HEY--BLAKE'S AS STRONG AS A ***BULL***. HE'LL PULL THROUGH.

NO THANKS TO YOU! I DON'T CARE IF TONY STARK MADE YOU A JUNIOR G-MAN--YOU GOT A GOOD COP HURT-- ***OR WORSE--***

NOT NOW.
COME ON, MARTY, LEAVE IT ALONE.
IS THAT WHAT STARK TEACHES YOU? USING YOUR POWERS WITHOUT ANY REGARD FOR NORMAL HUMANS?
STOP IT! ALL OF YOU! THIS IS A *HOSPITAL!*
IT'S GONE... IT'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY, JIM. IT'S ALL BEEN TAKEN-- *AGAIN.*
MOM--
I'M SORRY--

NO WONDER...

H-HE WAS THERE, TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE. AND I DIDN'T THINK, AND I...

CASSIE, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! YOU DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT TO HAPPEN!

YOU HAVE TO *FORGIVE* YOURSELF AND *MOVE ON.*

IS THAT WHAT CAP WOULD'VE DONE? OR YOUR GRANDFATHER? ANY HERO?

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT BLAKE AND MY MOTHER WERE AFRAID OF.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY WERE *RIGHT.*

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...

CASSIE-- I--

TELL ME HOW TO *HELP* YOU... *PLEASE.*

I CAN'T EVEN SEE HER NOW.

I THINK WE GOTTA TAKE HER TO PYM. EVEN IF IT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO GET *ARRESTED.*

YOU'RE RIGHT.

ELI, WE GOTTA TAKE HER IN, MAN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

CHILL OUT, BILLY--

YOU'RE RIGHT, CASSIE-- YOU *SCREWED UP.* BAD.

YOUR MOTHER AND BLAKE WERE RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A HERO.

ELI-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?

NO--LET HIM GO. JUST LISTEN.

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK I'M BEING *MEAN* NOW, RIGHT? I'M JUST CALLIN' 'EM LIKE I SEE 'EM, 'CAUSE YOU WERE NEVER A *REAL* HERO TO BEGIN WITH.

I LOOK AT MY GRANDAD--FOUGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY AND WHERE DID IT GET HIM? A GUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT AND A MIND MADE OF MUSH. *THAT* WAS A HERO. BUT HERE I AM FOAMING AT THE MOUTH LIKE I'VE HAD IT HARD.

TOOK ME SOME TIME TO UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT AFTER BUCKY TOLD ME ABOUT SOMETHING *JEFF MACE* TAUGHT HIM...IT ALL MADE SENSE.

"IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HEAD WHEN ALL ABOUT YOU ARE LOSING THEIRS AND BLAMING IT ON YOU.

"IF YOU CAN TRUST YOURSELF WHEN ALL MEN DOUBT YOU, BUT MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR THEIR DOUBTING TOO."

WE'VE GOT TO TRUST OURSELVES AT ALL TIMES IF THIS HERO THING IS GOING TO WORK FOR US. BUT GOD NEVER PROMISED ***ANYBODY*** A ***ROSE GARDEN***. WE'RE ALL GOING TO FAIL AT SOMETHING AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. AND HOW WE HANDLE IT SHOWS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

HEROES LIKE CAP, MY GRANDAD, JEFF MACE AND YOUR FATHER, THEY DEALT WITH THINGS WE COULDN'T EVEN FATHOM, YET THEY HANDLED THEIR BUSINESS AND ***REPRESENTED***.

YOU WANNA BE A REAL HERO? GO BE A HERO TO YOUR MOM IN HER TIME OF NEED.

OR IS THAT TOO ***RISKY?***

GET ME OUTTA HERE, BILLY. LET HER SHRINK DOWN TO ***NOTHING***...

...THAT'S WHAT SHE'S WORTH ANYWAY.

NO.

I DID THE *BEST* I COULD.

AND I'M THROUGH APOLOGIZING FOR WHO AND WHAT I AM.

UNDERSTOOD?

UH... WORKS FOR ME.

LATER.

I WANT TO THANK YOU GUYS FOR WHAT YOU DID.

THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE I WOULD'VE ENDED UP. PROBABLY *SUB-ATOMICA* LIKE I'VE HEARD DAD MENTION BEFORE.

PLEASE, THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR.

I THINK I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY FOR THE THINGS I HAD TO SAY.

I FIGURED IF I COULD JUST GET YOU MAD ENOUGH, YOU'D START TO GROW AGAIN.

PLEASE. YOU THINK I DIDN'T SEE THROUGH YOUR LITTLE STAGE DRAMA?

HEY--!

ACTUALLY, IT WAS BILLY WHO WAS THE *GENIUS.*

HE'S THE ONE WHO FIGURED OUT HOW TO SHRINK ME DOWN TO YOUR LEVEL.

I OWE YOU, BILLY.

FORGET IT. TAKE ME FOR A RIDE ON A *FLYING ANT* ONE DAY, AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.

UHHH...I'M NOT A BIG *ANT WHISPERER.*

THEN I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

HANG ON-- I WANT TO TRY MY MOM AT THE HOSPITAL AGAIN.

HELLO?

MOM.

CASSIE...

HOW'S BLAKE?

IT MIGHT BE TOUCH AND GO, BUT THE DOCTORS THINK HE'LL PULL THROUGH.

THANK GOD.

HONEY-- ABOUT EARLIER-- WE NEED TO BEHAVE LIKE A FAMILY AGAIN.

YOU'RE RIGHT, MOM--WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. NOT ANY MORE. I'M SORRY.

I'LL ALWAYS TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND SAVE LIVES, EVEN THOUGH THINGS MIGHT GO WRONG. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? BEING ON *THE JOB*, BLAKE WOULD TOO. HE KNOWS THE RISKS WHENEVER HE PUTS IT ON THE LINE.

I KNOW I'VE BEEN A REAL *PAIN* TO LIVE WITH LATELY. BUT IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO *FORGET* DAD...AND YOU WANT ME TO FORGET HIM AS WELL...

...AND I CAN'T.

I KNOW, HONEY--I'M SORRY.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BE SORRY, MOM. JUST *UNDERSTAND.*

THIS IS WHO I AM NOW. STATURE. A YOUNG AVENGER. MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER. THERE WAS NO SHAME IN HIM, AND THERE'S NO SHAME IN ME EITHER.

I LOVE YOU, CASSIE.

I LOVE YOU TOO, MOM. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN. BLAKE'S GONNA BE FINE. WE'VE GOT THAT FISHING TRIP AHEAD OF US, RIGHT?

HA HA... YES WE DO.

AND MOM--? I MIGHT BRING A FEW *FRIENDS...*

...MY *OTHER* FAMILY.

NEXT: HAWKEYE...

E
E
M
R
P
I
ZOMBIE